

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making laboratory items of the type made from a material selected from the group consisting of glass and plastic comprising the steps of:
  - (a) selecting an area of the outside item surface;
  - (b) applying a layer of a ceramic paint coating material having a coefficient of thermal expansion substantially the same as the coefficient of thermal expansion of the item material onto the area; and
  - (c) imprinting indicia onto the ceramic coating with a laser emitting device to permanently etch a code in said coating by effecting a color change to the coating.
2. The process of Claim 1 wherein the indicia are selected from the group consisting of bar code, numeric code, and alphabetic code.
3. The process of Claim 1 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of lead ceramic paint and nonlead ceramic paint.
4. The process of claim 1 including firing of the ceramic coating onto the glass.
5. A product by the process of Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4.